

3 October 2016

Dear Ambassador,

This year's process to select the next UN Secretary-General has benefited from an unprecedented degree of openness and transparency which has given all Member States and civil society access to a range of information about the candidates seeking the position and opportunities to interact with them. Although we appreciate that the eventual formal vote on the Council's recommendation to the General Assembly is to be held by secret ballot at a private meeting, as per past practice, we believe that the principle of transparency to guide the selection process should apply to the use of the veto by permanent members. The veto is effective when a candidate has the positive votes of nine or more members of the Council, but receives a negative vote or votes from one or more of the permanent members.

We are therefore writing to urge you and all other permanent members of the Council to state that **you will be prepared to acknowledge publicly any negative vote or votes which you have cast against a candidate who has received the required number of nine positive votes or more in the formal ballot**. Such self-identification would be in accordance with the principle of transparency that all member states declared, in General Assembly resolution 69/321, should now guide the entire selection process. Should any of the permanent members identifying themselves as having cast such a negative ballot wish to explain their vote, we would welcome that too in the interests of transparency.

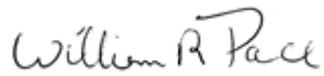
We also join many UN Member States in urging members of the Council to announce the outcome of "straw polls". In this event, we would call for the same self-identification of a permanent member voting to "discourage" a candidate who received nine or more votes of "encourage".

Furthermore, 1 for 7 Billion requests Council members to reaffirm their obligation under Article 100 of the Charter to respect the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and not to seek to influence the latter in discharging her or his responsibilities. We also urge Members of the Council to support the Secretary-General in ensuring that the paramount consideration in making senior and all other appointments shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter. **No Council member should extract promises from candidates on senior posts in exchange for support, as has been the case in the past: any Council member doing so would act in contravention of the letter and spirit of the Charter.** Moreover, all Member States have affirmed, in General Assembly resolution 46/232 and subsequent resolutions, that there should be no monopoly on senior posts by nationals of any State or group of States.

At this time of multiple, complex global challenges, the world needs UN leadership of the highest possible character. It is crucial that the Secretary-General will be able to select the strongest possible leadership team, appointed on the basis of merit alone, from candidates of all the world's regions. We trust that all Council members will honour their commitments

under the Charter enabling the new Secretary- General to do that. The 7 billion people of this world expect no less.

Yours sincerely,



William Pace / Yvonne Terlingen
On behalf of the 1 for 7 Billion Steering Committee

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